



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
Community and Family Health  
Post Office Box 47830  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7830

May 1, 2003

Dear Interested Person:

In the past two years, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) received two reports that included recommendations concerning state HIV policy. These reports were the 2001 HIV Policy Summit and HIV Prevention Study Committee (March 2002).

In addition, the Department and the State Board of Health (SBOH) were asked by the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials to "consider a process to update policies, rules, and/or regulations concerning HIV/AIDS and other bloodborne infections to reflect advances in the science of disease prevention and current best public health practices." This request was in response to the development of seven policy issue papers by the AIDSNET Council. The AIDSNET issue papers represent one perspective on identified policy issues from that group. These documents are available in draft form while local public health officials consider them further.

DOH and SBOH recognize that there are other potential policy issues and stakeholder perspectives in addition to those presented in the two reports and the seven AIDSNET issues. **Accordingly, we invite your comments on all relevant issues that should be considered during this review.** Once a comprehensive listing of issues has been created, open and public processes will be used to develop any proposed changes to state law or rule. Documents relevant to this review are listed below and a link can be found at:

[http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/hiv\\_aids/Prev\\_Edu/HIV\\_Policy\\_Review.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/hiv_aids/Prev_Edu/HIV_Policy_Review.htm)

- The 2001 HIV Policy Summit Report
- The HIV Prevention Study (March 2002)
- The seven draft issue papers from the AIDSNET Council
- Chapter 70.24 Revised Code of Washington, Control and Treatment of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, and
- Washington Administrative Code chapters 246-100 - Communicable and Certain Other Diseases and 246-101 – Notifiable Conditions

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Please send your comments by June 30, 2003 to: John F. Peppert, HIV Prevention Services, PO Box 47840, Olympia, WA 98504-7840. Comments can also be sent via email to [john.peppert@doh.wa.gov](mailto:john.peppert@doh.wa.gov). Please include "HIV Policy Review" in the subject line.

The enclosed document "Tackling HIV Policy Issues: A Process and Next Steps" provides further background information and a tentative timeline for this next step. Please feel free to forward this information to other interested parties. Thank you in advance for your comments.

Sincerely,

Jackson L. Williams, Assistant Secretary  
Community and Family Health

Thomas Locke, Member  
Washington State Board of Health

Enclosure